

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 151497

60

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INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 EB-11 TRSE-00 STR-08 COME-00 SIL-01

LAB-06 FRB-02 AGR-20 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 INR-10

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TO AMEMBASSY MADRID PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 151497

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, SP

SUBJECT: SECRETARY'S MEETING WITH BARRERA

1. MINISTER FINANCE BARRERA PAID COURTESY CALL ON SECRETARY ROGERS 10:30 A.M. JULY 30, 1973, ACCOMPANIED BY UNDER SECRETARY AND AMBASSADOR SAGA,.

2. AFTER INITIAL COURTESIES, BARRERA STATED THAT SPAIN WAS REVIEWING ITS MONETARY POLICY FOLLOWING JUNE CHANGE OF GOVERNMENT. HE LATER MENTIONED GOS INTEREST IN GATT TOKYO MEETING AND URGED THAT THE U.S. AND SPAIN REMAIN IN CONTACT REGARDING THIS MEETING AND SPAIN'S ROLE THEREIN.

3. IN DISCUSSING SPANISH ECONOMY, PRINCIPALS COMMENTED ON BENEFITS AND DRAWBACKS OF TOURISM, SPANISH WORKERS IN EUROPE, EMPLOYMENT AND INFLATION.

4. BARRERA THEN INTERJECTED THAT THE SHORTAGE OF SOY-BEANS IN SPAIN WAS PUSHING UP PRICES. THE SECRETARY
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 STATE 151497

COMMENTED THAT HE COULD NOT UNDERSTAND WHY OTHERS COULD

NOT UNDERSTAND U.S. POSITION: WE HAVE BEEN A GOOD PRODUCER, SUPPLYING MORE THAN EVER AND SELLING WHEN OTHERS COULD NOT. IF THERE IS DIFFICULTY OVER SOYBEANS, THE FAULT LIES NOT WITH US BUT WITH OTHER PRODUCERS WHO ARE NOT IN A POSITION TO SELL. BARRERA RESPONDED THAT SPAIN HAD

COME TO DEPEND ON U.S. FOR SOYBEANS AND THAT MAIN CONCERN REGARDING A SOYBEAN SHORTAGE WAS ITS AFFECT ON INFLATION.

5. THE SECRETARY THEN REFERRED TO EXCELLENT RELATIONS BETWEEN U.S. AND SPAIN, NOTING THAT THE ATTITUDE IN THE U.S. TOWARDS SPAIN IS VERY GOOD AND PROBLEMS OF WORLD WAR II HAVE BEEN DISSIPATED. SECRETARY SAID MANY HERE WERE IMPRESSED WITH THE YOUNG AND DYNAMIC SPANISH CABINET AND FACT THAT GOS IS WORKING TOWARD MEMBERSHIP IN EC AND PARTICIPATION IN NATO. BARRERA THANKED THE SECRETARY FOR HIS COMMENTS AND REMARKED THAT HIS GOVERNMENT IS TRYING TO FIX ITS RELATIONS WITH THE U.S. WITHIN CONTEXT OF SPAIN'S RELATIONS WITH EUROPE AND REST OF THE WORLD. HE STATED THAT THERE WOULD PROBABLY BE MORE "INTERNATIONALITY". (BARRERA DID NOT EXPAND ON THIS POINT).

6. SECRETARY ALSO COMMENTED THAT UNITED STATES WAS INTERESTED IN HAVING SPAIN INTEGRATED INTO EC AND ALSO FAVORED SPANISH MEMBERSHIP IN NATO. WHILE LATTER MIGHT NOT BE POSSIBLE AT THE MOMENT THERE WERE OTHER WAYS IN WHICH COLLABORATION COULD GO FORWARD.

7. MEMCON BEING POUCHED. ROGERS

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